

Jess and Marcia Whetsel
473 Dockins Rd.
Careywood, Idaho, 83809

Shoshana Grove, Secretary
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave., NW Suite 200 Washington DC 20268
Case #A2015-2

Dear Shoshana:

On February 20, 2015 the US Postal Service served notice to the Careywood Idaho Post Office that they were closing the Post Office effective March 31, 2015. We strongly protested this closing in view of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 that calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas. We were given no official notice and the law requires a 60 day notice to the entire community.

By having closed the Careywood Post Office, you are putting additional hardships on us and other residents of Careywood, young, and old alike, veterans, retired and elderly. We all have a 15-20 mile drive to "another" post office now which increases our fuel costs and in the winter sometimes Highway 95 can be very treacherous.

The Athol Post Office is not equipped to handle all of Careywoods needs. There is inadequate parking, not enough boxes and the wait is very long. I receive most of my mail by rural carrier and if I have a small package that can fit in my mailbox I have to wait an extra 1-2 days for it to be delivered. Which is very important, if we are expecting medication. If the package is too large to be delivered after the initial delay then I will receive a notice and then have to go to the post office the next day which is about 20 miles away and this is a hardship.

We now have a very good postmistress which is kind, courteous and has upgraded the Careywood Post Office with many new services including extended hours. In just 6 months she has raised her sales for the Post Office by over 40%. She has not raised her salary from the former postmaster that was there except that she now has to pay rent.

In closing, I would like for you to reconsider the closing of our Post Office which has literally erased our city off the map and created a hardship for most of us in this community. We are appealing to you to keep our Post Office opened. It may be just a number to you but the post office is our lifeline in our community. Thank you for considering the appeal of the closing of our post office.

Jess Whetsel
Marcia Whetsel